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CONSUMER GOODS AND DOMESTIC TRADE

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

KAZAKH MINISTER EXAMINES PROBLEMS IN FRUIT, VEGETABLE INDUSTRY

Alma Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Aug 81 p 3

[Article by Ye. Dzherembayev, minister of the fruit and vegetable industry of the Kazakh SSR: "No Bureaucratic Barriers, A Minister Replies to a Letter"]

[Text] A Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry has been created in Kazakhstan. It would be interesting to know what tasks it has been assigned and how it is going to accomplish them.

I. Samoylenko
Taldy-Kurgan

This is a reasonable question, considering the fact that there have been many serious problems in our vegetable, potato and fruit production as well as in the organization of their marketing. We will recall how frequently at the peak of the purchasing season the alarm has sounded from the sovkhozes and kolkhozes that part of the harvest is still in the fields, that it's rotting and that the trade-and-procurement and processing organizations are refusing to accept it. The other side had its arguments, too: "They're sending us the wrong products and at the wrong times--we won't accept them."

The root of the problem has been in the system of bureaucratic barriers, the failure to establish effective economic relations and in the dispersion of the fruit and vegetable production chain.

In looking out for their own interests, procurement and trade organizations, for example, could ship highly perishable vegetable back, knowing full well that the economy would suffer a loss as a result. But neither have agricultural people, on the other hand, shown much regard for the interests of trade and the fruit and vegetable industry: they have been raising vegetables giving the greatest gross yields in ruble terms and they have been responsible for irregularities in product assortment and delivery schedules. To the republic's food stocks last year, for example, our farms added 111 per cent of the cabbage, 114 per cent of the onions and 170 per cent of the garlic called for by the plan. But on the other hand, not more than 75-88 per cent of the tomatoes, cucumbers, beets and carrots. Tselinograd Oblast sovkhozes fulfilled their vegetable plan with cabbage, which constituted 80 per cent of purchases. Sovkhozes in Dzhambulskaya Oblast, on the other hand, stressed onion production, at the same time delivering only 6 per cent of their tomatoes, 1.3 per cent of their cucumbers and 0.2 per cent of their table beets.

Try to satisfy consumer demand after this kind of performance.

As far back as the October (1980) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev pointed to the need to link together the questions of the development of agriculture and the branches of industry supporting it and of the procurement, transportation, storage and processing of agricultural products. It was clear that to unify farms engaged in the production of vegetables, potatoes and fruits; the procurement organizations, processing enterprises and trade was now indispensable. Thus the republic saw the appearance of the Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry with corresponding organizations at oblast and rayon level.

The ministry's material base consists of sovkhozes specializing in the cultivation of potatoes, vegetables, cucurbits, fruits, berries and grapes; processing enterprises; procurement and trading organizations with their own material-technical base and the Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Fruit Growing and Viticulture.

The ministry's main task is within the shortest possible period of time to achieve substantial improvement in the supply of fruit and vegetables to the people.

The April plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, which discussed the question of the further intensification of agriculture in light of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the directives and recommendations of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, defined specific tasks in connection with potato and vegetable production. Already this year the system's sovkhozes are to grow and turn over to the state more than 160,000 tons of potatoes, 325,000 tons of vegetables and the biggest part of the fruits and grapes to be grown by the republic's farms. The plan for potato and vegetable planting has been overfulfilled.

As the leading fruit and vegetable procurement agency, the ministry is also responsible by contractual agreement for state purchases of potatoes, vegetables, cucurbits and fruits from kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises of different ministries and departments. From this year's harvest procurement organizations and processing enterprises are to purchase from the total volume of production contracted for 68 per cent of the potatoes, 83 per cent of the vegetables, 95 per cent of the fruit and 97 per cent of the grapes. Nor can the private plots be left out of account; they form an important additional reserve from which to add to our food resources.

It should be recognized that things are now better on the vegetable front. As of the end of July 66,300 tons of vegetables had been added to state stocks, that is, 5,000 tons more than by the same time last year.

Ministry processing enterprises will be engaged in the production of canned fruit and vegetable products, including baby food, fruit and berry purees, jams and preserves, a variety of fruit and vegetable juices, tomato products and wine-making products. Through a special trading system, enterprise stores will be wholesaling and retailing fresh, salted, fermented and canned fruits and vegetables and supplying them to public dining enterprises, personnel supply administrations, children's and medical institutions and other consumers. We will also be organizing inter-republic and inter-oblast deliveries and shipments of fruits, vegetables, grapes and potatoes to consumers of union resources.

During the current five-year plan period ministry sovkhozes are to increase the areas sown to vegetables and planted with cucurbits and potatoes, enlarge the assortment of these crops and improve their quality.

As against the past year, production and purchases of potatoes will grow by 44.2, vegetables by 84,000 tons by the end of the current five-year plan. We will also see great increases in deliveries for marketing of the less common vegetables and greens.

For the purpose of providing the people with year-round supplies, plans call for a substantial increase in the production of vegetables from enclosed areas, which are to be doubled in size by the end of the five-year plan. We will also be directing similar attention to the construction of mushroom cellars for mushroom production. It would be appropriate at this point to mention that previous plans had not called for such rates of expansion in the area of republic land under protective enclosure. The population will now be supplied with 32,000 more tons of cucumbers, tomatoes and green vegetables during the winter and early spring. In Alma-Atinskaya Oblast alone, from the construction of hothouse facilities using exhaust heat from power systems and compost produced by the Alma-Ata pilot plant mechanizing the processing of solid domestic wastes for hothouse soil mixtures, capital workers will be getting more than 13,000 tons of fresh vegetables during the winter, or 10,000 more tons than they do now.

A major effort will be undertaken to plant new and improve existing orchards, berry patches and vineyards. This means that the near future will see a successful solution of the problem of supplying the people of the republic with fruit.

Increases in gross production will be achieved both by expanding sown areas and creating new farms and, primarily, by intensifying, specializing and concentrating production.

With the development of large new areas of irrigated land there comes the task of creating sovkhozes specializing in fruit and vegetable production. I have in mind here the areas of the Keles massif irrigated by the waters of the Charvakskoye reservoir in Chimkentskaya Oblast [as published], the Aktyubinsk reservoir area, the lands along the Irtysh-Karaganda-Dzhezkazgan canal, the region of the Chingel'dinskiy massif and the Bartogayskoye reservoir under construction in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast and other areas. Completion of the Bartogayskoye reservoir with the Chilik-Chemolgan canal, for example, will bring us another 90,000 hectares of new irrigated land. It will be most suitable for organizing the industrial production of vegetables and fruits and be provided with labor resources, power-supply systems, a well-organized road network and a construction support center.

Long-term questions of further increases in production volumes raise the problem of seed and plant provisions.

Recent years have seen the development of a disproportion between the increasing volumes of fruit, vegetables and potatoes purchased and the existing material-technical base, which is now incapable of providing proper storage for these products. The shortage of storage facilities is being felt particularly acutely in Alma-Ata city and in Dzhambulskaya, Dzhezkazganskaya and Karagandinskaya Oblasts. Much of the existing capacity, moreover, cannot provide optimum fruit and vegetable storage. It is precisely here that is to be found concealed a cause of great vegetable and potato losses. It is for this reason that the April plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan assigned for accomplishment over the course of the current five-year plan the task of doubling potato-storage capacity and of enlarging four-fold the capacity of our vegetable storage facilities. The need of our farms and procurement organizations for reusable containers and special-purpose transport is not beeing fully met. This will require solution first of all of the problems of improving and developing our material-technical base all relevant advances in science and technology.

The formation of a highly-developed agro-industrial complex marks a new step forward in the planned organization of a social production making increases possible in necessary food resources.

8963
CSO: 1800/827

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

CONSUMER INDUSTRY PROBLEMS, OUTLOOKS REVIEWED BY MINISTER

Tallinn RAHVA HAAL in Estonian 7 Jul 81 p 2

[Article by Valter Hallmagi, minister of service industry of the Estonian SSR: "The Care For A Person and His Needs"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in bold face]

[Text] In the Basic Directions for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for the Years 1981-1985 and for the Period Until 1990, which are the basis for the 11th Five Year Plan, it is stressed that the highest aim of the economic strategy of the Communist Party is the relentless raising of the living standard and cultural level of the people, and the creation of the best conditions for the comprehensive development of the individual based on a continuous rise in efficient social production and an increase in productivity and the social and work activity of the Soviet people.

What is being done to fulfill the tasks emanating from the Basic Directions in order to guarantee the continuing social and economic progress and the raising of the people's welfare in our republic? What are the developmental perspectives of the major branches of the national economy of the Estonian SSR during the 11th Five Year Plan? We will be discussing these questions in the column starting today, in which the floor is given to ministers of the republic, chairmen of the republic committees, and several other leading persons of various republic collectives.

Placing the main emphasis on intensive management methods and raising the efficiency of social production by the CPSU makes new demands on service workers also. We must actively perfect the stimulation of management, planning, and working operations, as well as the practical analysis of the economy in each branch of production and in each enterprise and productive unit.

The service industry has become a diversified and complex branch of the national economy. The number of service workers, the material-technical means assigned to the service industry, the catalog of services rendered, and the forms and methods of the services have increased markedly. During the 10th Five-Year Plan new automotive maintenance stations were constructed in Tallinn, Tartu, and Narva (a total of 94 bays) resulting in a 2.7 fold increase in the work volume of the "Auto Service" collective. A production facility was constructed for the Domestic Machine Maintenance plant; Turi and Tapa townfolk received modern saunas. In addition, more than 10 million rubles were used to technically complement and rehabilitate service facilities.

Providing services to the rural population has markedly improved. The plan for comprehensive reception points in rural regions for 1976-1980 has been implemented. In the interest of serving the rural population better, 115 comprehensive reception points were opened during the Five-Year Plan.

The enterprises of the Ministry of Service Industry of the Estonian SSR increased the volume of service work by 35.5 percent during the 10th Five-Year Plan instead of the planned 33.6 percent, with 95 percent of the increase being due to a rise in labor productivity.

During the 11th Five Year Plan the volume of service work must increase almost by 1.4 to 1.5 times. Meeting the tasks before us demands a clever use of all facilities at our disposal: an increase in production efficiency must be marked in the entire branch of industry. There are reserves available.

It is necessary to define the basic course for increasing production effectiveness emanating from the specific conditions of environmental services and the level of development achieved to date.

An early start was made to fulfill the tasks faced by the service industry during the 11th Five-Year Plan and to define the new guidelines for servicing the republic's consumer needs. As early as 1978 the Science and Technology Council of the Ministry of Consumer Industry Estonian SSR surveyed the rational usage estimates for 1985 and 1990 as projected by the ministry's Institute for Planning and Technology. In June 1979 the first draft of the Basic Directions for services in the Estonian SSR during the 11th Five Year Plan was under discussion. The basic program for the scientific-technological research of consumer affairs was approved.

Weighing the situation regarding consumer services in our republic in the beginning of the 11th Five-Year Plan, and determining the main thrust for improvement in services, we come to the following conclusion: /that in the forefront are questions concerning the methods of resolutely and broadly stimulating the material-technological base created during the previous five-year plans, the current organizational structure and function of the organization, the employed planning and work collectives/.

A completely justifiable means for increasing service efficiency is the concentration and specialization of production--something the Consumer Services Ministry of the Estonian SSR pays great attention to.

Currently either completely or partially specialized enterprises deliver more than half the republic's service production. In specialized plants the volume of services is increasing markedly above average. It is of utmost importance that the specialization and concentration of services prepare the entire branch of the national economy for a broad mechanization of production, for an effective implementation of the achievements of science and technology, and for a broad modernization of the production base.

As a result of measures taken to date, the technical direction and material-technical supply of specialized plants or collectives has improved. Questions concerning the organization of production, the preparation of personnel and the

improvement of quality are also being solved in an improved fashion. Under the conditions of concentrated and specialized production it is especially important that the cooperation between plants run smoothly, transportation be effectively used, dispatching function exactly, and the net of order receiving stations be expanded.

/With the development of the production technological potential we have created the preconditions for embarking on a qualitatively new epoch of specialization. The reception of orders and relations with consumers is concentrated in one kind of enterprises, another type takes care of filling the orders, i.e. handles the productive-technological aspects of service/. The former work under local supervision; the latter are all-republican mechanized production enterprises, having branches in the larger centers and shops in each rayon. Thus all the advantages deriving from the possibility of separating territorially the reception and delivery of many orders from production.

In view of the experiences of the other federal republics we hold that in the interest of further progress in services, it is necessary to reorganize the rayon service combines into a service production administration at the same time with the creation of new specialized production collectives. The latter should be subordinated simultaneously both to the rayon soviets and the Ministry of Consumer Industry of the Estonian SSR. The Projection and Technology Institute of the Ministry of Consumer Industry of the Estonian SSR has researched these questions thoroughly and has adjusted them to the conditions of our republic. The basic guidelines for the new organizational structure and the appropriate service units have been compiled; their rights and responsibilities for providing services to the population and for interunit cooperation have been determined.

In the framework of a newspaper article it is impossible to give a detailed overview of all the organizational work being done and of the advantages contained in perfecting the organizational structure. I would only like to stress that the planned structural changes demand a broad and thorough preparatory stage, unconcerned with minutia. The heart of the matter is briefly that the services administration of the rayon becomes the sole representative of service enterprises in the rayon, and at the same time represents the rayon population in related enterprises.

The basic components of the structure will be the area service plants and the comprehensive ordering points subordinated to them; their work will be managed by the services administration through centralized dispatching and in cooperation with specialized plants. An inescapable precondition for the success of the area service plant is an increase in the number of comprehensive ordering points in the region and in the extent of orders accepted by them. This, however, is only possible of there is close cooperation between the local administrative organs, offices, plants, and organizations.

For the specialized enterprises and collectives located in the rayon, the area service plant is the leading administrative organ, which is subordinate to the local soviet. This precludes the dissensions that appeared during partial specialization, as well as the lack of coordination between specialized plants and rayon organs.

Our plans do not exhaust by far all the possibilities for intensifying the progress in providing services. An analysis of the service industry progress in the federal republics shows that several fraternal republics, including the RSFSR, have caught up with us regarding the volume of services per capita and are maintaining a considerably larger growth rate. While the volume of services rendered per inhabitant grew in our republic by 31 percent during the last Five-Year Plan, the same figure for the Russian Federation was 41 percent. The secret to the success of our neighbors lies in their concentration of services into specialized collectives, and in the special attention paid by local party and soviet organs to services for the people of their region.

The experiences of the fraternal republics show clearly that the best results and experiences occur whenever the servicing of the needs of the workers and their dependents have become joint objects of interest to the local party and soviet organizations and agricultural, industrial and service enterprises. For example, the attitude of the plant leaders of Smolensk oblast to service questions is graphically illustrated by the words of the chairman of the im. V. I. Lenin kolkhoz of Yartsevo rayon: "We consider the service personnel to be on a par with our kolkhoz members. We highly value their contribution to the achievements of the collective farm, and we think that they receive the same remuneration for it as do kolkhoz members."

Comparing the experiences abroad with our daily practice, we have the impression that many of our republic's economic leaders think--based on the relatively high statistics of the republic's service industry--that our servicing of the labor force is already on such a high level that efforts to further improve the service system are not called for. Thus agricultural enterprises have often attempted to deny financial and other material aid to service units and service personnel located on their territory.

Much can be done to further cooperation between the facilities of the enterprises and collectives under the leadership of party and soviet organs so as to find new ways to better fulfill the social needs of service workers, to find rooms for service stations, and to technically aid service plants.

I feel that this attitude toward the development of service industry is in complete accord with the directions given by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in his report to the 26th Congress of the CPSU: "Particular care for the individual and his needs is the beginning and end of the party's economic policy. I recall this so as to stress once again a simple but important idea: the production of consumer goods for the inhabitants and the development of the service area is a primary point of attention for the party. And this is as it should be."

9240
CSO: 1815/11

MINSK MEAT ASSOCIATION USES NEW LABOR INCENTIVE SCHEME

Moscow PLANOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russian No 6, Jun 81 pp 96-98

[Article by T. Broyda, deputy general director of the Minsk Production Association of the Meat Industry: "Raising the Production Efficiency of a Meat-Dairy Association"]

[Text] The meat industry plays a special part in meeting the public need for diverse food products. The output of the meat industry accounts for more than 20 percent of the gross production of food products. A distinctive feature of this sector is the broad assortment of articles which differ by labor productivity. In recent years the rate of growth of the more labor-intensive output has increased at a number of associations and enterprises of the sector.

For example, at the Minsk Production Association in the 10th Five-Year Plan production of the most labor-intensive articles, sausage goods (the labor-intensiveness of gross output per 1,000 rubles is 25.6 hours) and small semi-prepared articles (32 hours), rose by 32 and 68 percent respectively while production of the least labor-intensive meat (16.9 hours) decreased by 14 percent.

When the volume of production and labor productivity are measured on the basis of gross output a faster increase in the production of the more labor-intensive output results in a distortion (lowering) of the collective's actual contribution to the final results. This is illustrated by the comparison given in the table below. It shows the results of the work of the association calculated on the basis of gross output and normative net output.

	1975	1980	1980/1975, %
Volume of Production, millions of rubles:			
Gross Output	174.0	197.9	113.7
Normative Net Output	19.6	23.9	121.9
Labor Productivity (Output per Worker), rubles			
Gross Output	66,200	71,200	107.6
Normative Net Output	7,400	8,600	116.2

Since the second half of 1980 the Minsk Production Association of the Meat Industry has been working on the new system of indicators based on normative net output. In our opinion, this makes it possible not only to evaluate the collective's contribution to the final results more correctly, but also to strengthen planning discipline and fulfill the production program in the assigned assortment. Thus, the Minsk Meat Processing Plant, a member of the association, did not fulfill its plan for the third quarter of 1980 for volume of normative net output (98.2 percent), although based on gross output it overfulfilled the plan by 6.1 percent. The explanation is that the plant did not fulfill its plan for production of small semi-prepared products, while overfulfilling it for the production of bulky sausage goods. In other words, the results reflected the traditional ideas and obsolete working methods of the plant managers. It was necessary to hold classes and discussions for the foremen of the production sections to study the new indicator and the sectorial norms of net output that were ratified. At the present time the production collective of the plant is fulfilling its plan in the proper assortment and based on normative output.

Introduction of the new evaluation indicator is very important for the further development of the association's economy. At the same time, there are other planning questions that need to be decided.

In 1980 as a result of a change in the timetable for state purchases of livestock, Belorussian SSR Gosplan with the consent of the USSR Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry lowered the quarterly plans for production of meat and for gross and marketable output for the republic meat industry sector. Corresponding corrections in the plan assignments of the associations and enterprises were then made by the republic ministry of meat and dairy industry.

In connection with the lowering of the quarterly plans for production of output the republic Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry removed the collectives of the associations and enterprise from the list of participants in socialist competition and, basing itself on paragraph 30 of decree No 695 of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers on improving the economic mechanism (dated 12 July 1979), took away 50 percent of the bonuses of the association enterprise managers. These penalties were applied to the Minsk Association of the Meat Industry as well.

Paragraph 30 of this decree, however, discusses plan corrections made by the ministry itself to lower it compared to the actual level of fulfillment. As an agency of the republic Council of Ministers, of course, Gosplan has the right (with the consent of the Union-Republic ministry) to balance meat production plans. In these cases the practice of eliminating enterprise collectives from socialist competition and reducing the bonuses of employees is completely unfounded.

The Statute on the Production Association (Combine) provides that it has a right to work out and ratify quarterly and monthly plans for production and economic activity (paragraph 60) and to amend them during the year (paragraph 62).

In recent years, however, the Belorussian Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry has not permitted the association to make changes on its own, even in the monthly plan. Experience shows that corrections in the production plan are often dictated by changes in the schedules of delivery of livestock and poultry, inasmuch as the kolkhozes and sovkhozes are not given monthly plans. Orders from trade organizations can change too. Therefore, corrections in monthly plans must be made by the association itself within the framework of the quarterly plan ratified in the established manner.

During the 10th Five-Year Plan the Minsk Production Association of the Meat Industry expanded its direct ties with trade organizations and public catering enterprises. At the present time the association delivers sausage and semi-prepared articles directly to the stores and dining halls of Minsk (bypassing the wholesale refrigeration units of the Ministry of Trade), which makes it possible to receive 2.4 million rubles of profit a year. The benefits of direct links are not limited to additional profits for industry. When articles are delivered directly transportation expenditures and natural loss are reduced significantly and the external appearance and quality of the output keep better, which is advantageous to trade and to the population. Unfortunately, the administration of trade of the Minsk City Executive Committee has rejected numerous proposals by the association to switch to direct links for the sale of 5,000 tons of poultry meat a year. If this were allowed the association's profits would increase by about 400,000 rubles.

A number of steps to improve management of the association, intensify material and moral incentive, develop internal cost accounting, and improve the organization of competition have been taken for the purpose of raising efficiency.

The brigade form of labor organization and stimulation is becoming very important. In the near future it should be the primary form. The brigade form of labor payment with payment for final output is prevalent in the production unit of the Minsk Association of the Meat Industry. In all we have 118 brigades, 43 comprehensive brigades, and 75 specialized. The brigade form of labor organization covers 992 persons in primary production, which is 52.3 percent of the total number of workers. In auxiliary production there are 13 brigades with 115 workers, which is 21.4 percent of the total number. The low figure for workers in brigades is a result of the specific characteristics of this production and the broad assortment of output produced.

Until 1980 the piece-rate and bonus system of labor payment was used in most of the brigades, while wages were distributed by time worked and wage-skill ratings. In many sections of production the wage-skill ratings of brigade members were the same. Brigades in which all members had wage-skill rating No 5 were employed, for example, in the meat rolling department.

Although this form has many advantages, it does not take account of the intensity of labor and the professional skill of each member of the brigade, so it does not create adequate incentives for further growth in labor productivity. In order to take account of the contribution of each worker to the general work results, many enterprises and associations of the industry began establishing comprehensive,

specialized, and full-process brigades with labor payment based on labor participation factors.

At the Minsk Association of the Meat Industry the work was begun in September 1979. A great deal of preparation preceded formation of the brigades. In most of the production sections organizational-technical steps to raise the labor productivity of the workers were prepared for and carried out and explanatory discussions were held.

According to the statute on specialized and comprehensive brigades worked out at the association , plan assignments are ratified for each production brigade for production of output in physical terms (per shift, month, quarter, and year); norms of output and service time; norms of use of raw materials (production of output); indicators of the quality (grade) of articles. For each brigade a record is kept of the amount and quality of output (volume of work), fulfillment of output norms and normed assignments, use of raw and processed materials, and so on. The plans and obligations of the brigades are coordinated with plans and obligations of the production shops and sections. The conditions of socialist competition among brigades and collectives are specified.

Labor participation factors are used in order to make a more correct evaluation of the personal contribution of each worker to the general work results and the degree of professional skill when distributing piece-rate supplemental earnings and bonuses. The base value of labor participation factors used is one. The actual factor is established for the worker as equal to the base, or greater or less than it depending on the individual labor contribution to overall results. According to the statutes the maximum labor participation factor is 1.5 and the minimum is 0.5.

Labor participation factors greater than one are established for workers who have been most efficient, while factors less than one are given to those who have worked less productively and well. Positive factors (worth 0.1-0.2) are overfulfillment of production assignments, combining occupations, high level of professional skill, introduction of progressive technology, helping fellow workers and sharing know-how, training new workers, and incorporating progressive labor methods. The labor participation factors are reduced for failure to fulfill production assignment, deviations from technological instructions, violations of equipment safety rules, and arriving at work late and leaving early.

The development of the brigade form of labor organization and incentive began at the association with the refrigeration unit of the main production site. Until December 1979 the refrigeration unit had small brigades of warehousemen who performed particular operations. One brigade or another was often out of action because of lack of means of transportation, elevators out of order, incomplete workloads at the primary livestock processing plant, and so on. Appropriate preparatory work was done to achieve a fundamental improvement in organization of the labor of the warehousemen: the plans for placement of the workers, time expenditures for each operation, bonus statutes, and the like were refined. The brigades were formed and staffed at general meetings of their members.

Two consolidated shift brigades of warehousemen with 18-20 persons apiece were formed to receive meat from the primary livestock processing plant, place it in the refrigeration chambers, send it to the sausage plant, load and unload the freezers, and load the meat into railroad cars. Two similar brigades of warehousemen were formed to receive, handle, and distribute subproducts.

Each brigade is given production assignments and a schedule of loading-unloading work and keeps a daily record of their fulfillment.

Because the warehousemen are fulfilling their monthly output norms by an average of 120 percent, a decision was made at meetings of the brigades to distribute the entire piece-rate wages based on labor participation factors within the range 0.9-1.2 (in every case the wage-scale rating of the worker is guaranteed), not to apply the factor just to the piece-rate supplemental earnings.

Brigade councils with three members determine the daily labor participation factors and the average monthly factor.

In the short time that this new form of labor organization has been used the refrigeration collective has raised labor productivity and strengthened labor discipline. The volume of work done has risen despite a slight decline in the number of workers. Worker transience and absenteeism is down. Average wages have risen 10-15 percent.

Comprehensive and specialized brigades have also been formed in all sections of the primary livestock processing plant. The fat section, which is a section with specialization by subject where the best results are achieved through the coordinated actions of workers in different specializations, is a typical example. They have formed one full-process brigade there, including workers of both shifts and auxiliary workers (three coopers).

By 1981 we had established 25 comprehensive and specialized brigades paid according to labor participation factors. The rest of the brigades will be switched to this progressive form by 1982.

Councils of brigade leaders of the plants and the associations had been formed to raise the working efficiency of the brigades and to organize the exchange of know-how. According to the statute they participate in working out the conditions for and summarizing the results of socialist competition among the brigades, conduct schools and seminars of progressive know-how, and so on.

The experience of the association demonstrates that the brigade form of labor organization can be used successfully in a large majority of the sections of primary and auxiliary production because it intensifies the interest of each brigade member in achieving the best results: fuller use of raw materials, reducing unrpoductive losses of working time, strengthening labor discipline, and raising worker skill ratings.

In the 10th Five-Year Plan many mechanized lines and highly productive pieces of equipment were installed, making it possible to switch 210 persons from manual to mechanized labor. Combined with the steps to improve planning and material incentive this made it possible to fulfill the plan assignments and socialist obligations. The collective of the association completed fulfillment of its five-year plan for total volume of production and labor productivity ahead of schedule, on 18 December 1980. We produced 6 million rubles worth of above-plan output and received 2.6 million rubles of above-plan profit.

The labor collectives of the association are taking an active part in socialist competition to raise the efficiency and quality of work and successfully fulfill the assignments of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

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CONSUMER GOODS DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION

KAZAKH VEGETABLE SUPPLIES SUBJECT OF CC EXHORTATION

Alma Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Sep 81 p 3

[Article entitled: "To Harvest and Store All Potatoes, Vegetables and Fruit of the 1981 Harvest"]

[Text] In order to attract to the resources of the state the maximum quantity of potatoes, vegetables, melons and fruit of the 1981 harvest and to improve the supply of these products to the population of the republic, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan and the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR have obligated the Ministries of Agriculture, Fruit and Vegetable-Raising Industry, Procurement, and Trade of the Kazakh SSR, the Kazpotrebsoyuz (Kazakh Union of Consumers' Societies), the Eastern Branch of VASKHNIL (All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences im. V. I. Lenina), Glavrissovkhozstroy (Main Administration for the Construction of Rice Sovkhozes), ministries and departments having subsidiary agricultural enterprises, the obkoms and raykoms of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, as well as the oblispolkoms and rayispolkoms, to take the necessary measures guaranteeing the complete harvest and complete safety of the entire cultivated crop of potatoes, vegetables, melons and fruit, guaranteeing the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plans and socialist obligations with regard to their procurement.

For this to be accomplished, it is necessary to plug all available harvest technology and means of transportation into the work, paying special attention to the well-timed and quality execution of work operations and the immediate taking out of the produce, not allowing losses during harvesting and transportation.

If necessary, additional means of transportation and the able-bodied population of the towns and the workers of the villages must be involved in helping to bring in the harvest; where expedient, the collectives of enterprises, organizations and institutions must be assigned to indidual kolkhozes and sovkhozes to aid in the gathering and transporting of the harvest.

All storage facilities for potatoes and vegetables, fruit storage facilities, refrigerators, fermentation and salting places, and loading and unloading machinery must be in complete readiness.

In the localities where potatoes, vegetables, and fruit are produced, a network of delivery-receiving stations must be created, as well as the necessary quantity

of mobile stations for the procurement of potatoes, fruit, grapes and melons from the population.

The work of the receiving-procurement centers, the fruit and vegetable facilities and the processing enterprises must be organized in two shifts and, if necessary, around the clock.

The Gur'yevskiy, Dzhezkazganskiy, Mangyshlakskiy, Chimkentskiy oblispolkoms and the Alma-Atinskiy gorispolkom have been ordered to provide assistance to the farms of Kokchetavskaya, Kustanayskaya, Severo-Kazakhstanskaya, Taldy-Kurganskaya, and Tselinogradskaya oblasts in a well-timed potatoes.

The Kazakh Union of Consumers' Societies and the oblispolkoms must organize the purchase of potatoes from the population.

The Gossnab (State Committee for Material and Technical Supply) of the Kazakh SSR, the Ministries of Procurement, Internal Affairs, and Local Industry of the Kazakh SSR, the Goskomsel'khoztekhnika (State Committee for Agricultural Equipment), and the Goskomnefteprodukt (State Committee for Petroleum Products) of the Kazakh SSR have been ordered to take urgent measures to supply the appropriate packing and packing materials to the procurement and trade organizations of the republic.

The Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable-Raising Industry of the Kazakh SSR, Kazpotrebsoyuz, the ministries and departments carrying out the laying-in of potatoes and fruit and vegetable produce, the obkoms of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, the oblispolkoms and the Alma-Atinskiy gorispolkom must immediately take measures with regard to the additional layin-in of this produce for long-term storage, so as to improve the supply of the population with potatoes, fresh and processed vegetables in variety, to guarantee the uninterrupted trade in them during the winter and spring periods of 1981/1982. Strict control must be established over the complete safety, the rational and economical consumption of this produce.

The Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable-Raising Industry of the Kazakh SSR, the Kazpotrebsoyuz, the Alma-Atinskiy, Dzhambulskiy, Taldy-Kurganskiy and Chimkentskiy oblispolkoms must organize the uninterrupted work of fruit-canning enterprises, to guarantee the fulfillment of plans for the output of canned products in the established variety.

The railroad administrations, the Ministries of Motor Transport, Fruit and Vegetable-Raising Industry of the Kazakh SSR, Kazpotrebsoyuz, the oblispolkoms and the Alma-Atinskiy gorispolkom have been ordered to allot to the procurement and trade organizations in good time the necessary number of railroad cars and motor vehicles for the transportation of potatoes, vegetables and fruit. The following must also be done: improve the organization of trade in potatoes, vegetables and fruit, expand the network of stores and small retail enterprises, fully staff them with clerks and establish a work schedule that is most convenient for the population.

8970
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COLLECTIVE FARM MARKETS EXAMINED

Moscow SOVETSKAYA TORGOVLYA in Russian 11 Aug 81 p 2

[Article by A. Vorokhanov, chief of the department for management and control of kolkhoz markets of the RSFSR Ministry of Trade: "Kolkhoz Markets"]

[Text] An average of 240,000 persons sell their wares daily at 2,300 kolkhoz markets of the Russian Federation. In 1976-1980 alone the amount spent on constructing and improving the material and technical resources of the markets in the Russian Federation was 76 million rubles. During this period 65 markets, 120 trade pavilions, 19 hotels and a number of projects were constructed and put into operation.

Large markets and pavilions have been built in Moscow, Stavropol, Kazan, Chelyabinsk, Krasnodar and other cities. By virtue of their size and equipment, the covered markets essentially are trade centers where state, cooperative and kolkhoz trade are widely represented. The market in Stavropol which has 500 trading spots is an example.

Now throughout the republic 30 modern covered marketplaces for 12,500 trading spots are under construction along with completed state and cooperative trading facilities and public catering enterprises. Thirty-four pavilions and a number of other projects are being constructed. Unfortunately, in a number of autonomous republics, krays and oblasts the funds allocated for constructing and setting up public services and amenities were not completely used. In Gor'kovskaya Oblast, for example, only 13 percent of the plan for constructing new markets was carried out last year. In Volgogradskaya Oblast 56 percent was carried out and in Kurskaya Oblast 44 percent was carried out.

Some executive committees of local soviets do not properly use the funds which have been allocated for construction and for establishing public facilities and amenities at the markets. For example in 1980 in the Bashkirskaya ASSR 2 million rubles were withdrawn in this way and in the Tambovskaya Oblast almost 500,000.

Recently a decree of the CC CPSU and USSR Council of Ministers was passed titled "On Additional Measures for Increasing the Production of Agricultural Products on Private Subsidiary Farms of Citizens." It defined in particular a broad system of measures which would promote the improvement of market trade.

The further development of kolkhoz trade greatly depends upon strengthening the ties between market workers and kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Now this tie frequently has a bureaucratic nature. The markets of Orlovskaya Oblast concluded 67 agreements with kolkhozes and sovkhozes in 1980 for providing agricultural products. However, only 21 percent were carried out and 10 farms did not bring their products as part of their agreement. The same situation exists in the Astrakhanskaya, Omskaya and a number of other oblasts. It is our opinion that the reason for such a formalistic approach to the agreements is that material responsibility of the parties was not stipulated.

Festival bazaars and fairs promote the increase in the amount of agricultural products brought in. Last year they numbered over 3,000 and 1,025 kolkhozes participated in them. The bazaars and fairs which ran in the Omskaya, Tyumenskaya and Kurskaya Oblasts were most successful.

In striving to attain more active participation on the part of kolkhozes in the market work, one must keep in mind the production of agricultural goods on private subsidiary farms of kolkhoz laborers, workers and employees. This also requires the further development and improvement of market trade and the implementation of new and advanced forms of services. On the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of a number of oblasts points for receiving milk from kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers were organized on a public basis. Kolkhoz markets set aside special areas for the sale of this milk and they supplied the sellers with necessary inventory. Organizing such receiving points is economically advantageous for kolkhozes and sovkhozes as well as rural residents. Moreover, the expenses of kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers connected with traveling to the market are reduced by 1.5-2 times and losses in work days are eliminated.

One of the measures taken to improve conditions for the sale of agricultural products at kolkhoz markets in a number of cities of the Russian Federation is the issue of rented equipment and hygienic apparel without a deposit. Moreover, at the pavilions and counters, they set up scales and prepare the merchandise beforehand. In a number of cities such services as bringing agricultural products to the point of sales using buses and train stations were expanded. The office of trade services is now more active. At the markets of the republic now there are 354 of them.

The consumer cooperative can play a more significant role in the development of trade at kolkhoz markets. In evaluating the volume of sales made by it in meat, milk, potatoes and vegetables, one must admit that the volume is far from what is possible when including the turnover of surplus products which exist on the kolkhozes and which kolkhoz workers have. Directing these products towards an organized market would help improve the work in procuring surpluses and in expanding and improving the attending trade network cooperatives at the kolkhoz markets.

The delivery of products to the market is a pressing issue. The experience of the Moscow market administration deserves attention. The administration directs the local workers who conclude agreements with kolkhoz workers, distribute invitations to participate in trade at the Moscow markets and conclude agreements for allotting transportation in order to bring in the products. Last year Glavmosavtotrans allotted 4,310 motor vehicles which brought in 27,800 tons of food products.

The practice of making motor vehicle transport available on the basis of letter and telegraph applications of rural residents has become widespread. According to the instructions of the executive committees of local soviets, transportation agencies must issue kolkhoz markets motor vehicle transportation in the necessary amount to bring in the products. The executive committees have recommended that kolkhozes and sovkhozes render transportation assistance to kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers so that the products be delivered to the market. The experience of the Tatarskaya ASSR which together with the administration of motor vehicle transportation developed a schedule for motor vehicle transport in order to deliver products deserves attention. This allowed the quantity of products brought to the kolkhoz market to be significantly increased.

Implementing the best experience and eliminating deficiencies in the work are the most important conditions for carrying out the great tasks which face us.

8714
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SUPPLY IMBALANCES IN BELORUSSIAN MARKETS, STATE STORES EXAMINED

Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belorussian 3 Sep 81 p 2

[Article by ZVYAZDA special correspondents M. Panasyuk and A. Ulitsyenak: "Plenty at the Market, Nothing in the Stores"]

[Text] The fellow from Tamashouka, which is 69 kilometers distant from the oblast seat, immediately drew the attention of his fellow passengers on board the suburban train.

"It's like looking for a needle in a haystack," he began. "We have a KBA [expansion unknown], a forestry operation, a school, a sanatorium, and restaurant.... Fruits and vegetables sell like hotcakes in the community, for they are seldom hauled in. So we take turns coming to town. Today is my turn...."

At the suburban train station in Brest we saw a great many people hurrying across a footbridge to the station from town, loaded down with cabbages, tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables....

A great many things became clear when inspection team members proceeded to ask questions about the job being done by the rayon procurement office.

"We are unsatisfied with the performance of the procurement people," we were told at the rayon executive committee. "Last month we had a hearing with these people on organization of their activities, but there has been little change for the better."

On the day of the inspection, for example, only 67 tons of the plan-scheduled 90 tons of cucumbers were procured. The tomato procurement shortfall was 10 tons, although the tomato harvest is extremely good this year. Trade facilities and public food service enterprises in this rayon have failed to receive an adequate quantity not only of cabbages but also of early potatoes, which only now are they beginning to procure. Instead of buying produce on nearby kolkhozes and sovkhozes, however, the office sent its representative... to Krasnodar. Purchased cucumbers, hauled thousands of kilometers, went bad en route, so that nobody was willing to buy them. And yet on the Brestskiy Sovkhoz cucumbers were in such surplus that they had to be... fed to livestock.

How are other procurement offices in the oblast doing?

"The Luninets procurement people have done a particularly good job this year. They substantially overfulfilled the targeted figure. We are pleased with the performance of the Ivatsevichskiy, Ivanovskiy, Drogichinskiy and several other offices," reported V. K. Batrachenka, head of the oblast Potrebsoyuz department of crop procurement and marketing.

On the whole, however, the state of affairs is unsatisfactory. While in Luninetskiy Rayon, for example, they have procured 230 tons of fruits and vegetables, the figures are 91 and 60 tons respectively in Gantsevichskiy and Maloritskiy rayons, a totally unjustified performance. Lyakhovichskiy Rayon, for example, has had a good fruit harvest. In particularly abundant supply are pears, which not only farms but individual kolkhoz farmers wish to sell.

"My garden alone has produced approximately 3 tons of pears. But where can I sell them? I am having to feed them to the pigs," stated A. A. Papko, a pensioner in the village of Hanchary.

One could hear approximately the same complaints from residents of the villages of Tsyhani, Myadzvedzichy, Minichy, as well as many others, where the branches on the fruit trees are literally breaking under the weight of the crop. The consumer cooperative people, however, instead of exerting maximum effort, are complaining that they are having a lot of problems with pears. They are quickly rotting and losing their attractive appearance and taste. Is this not why oblast Potrebsoyuz organizations have not yet procured even half of the targeted 3500 tons? A particularly alarming situation develops each year as regards putting high-quality apples into the nation's cold-storage stocks. This year as well 273 tons of these apples must be procured and shipped, but the people at the oblast Potrebsoyuz have no idea where they can get them.

The counters are jam-packed, as they say. How about available variety of produce? The Drogichinskiy people are offering tomatoes, the Pinskiy and Ivanovskiy vegetable farmers are offering cucumbers, while the people from Berezovskiy and Kamenetskiy rayons are offering apples and pears. A good choice of grades and varieties, ripe and attractive produce. And expensive. Apples, for example, are selling for a ruble apiece, while tomatoes are going for a price ranging from 80 kopecks to 2 rubles....

We were given an explanation for what we saw at the Brest Central Market by acting market director A. D. Semyanenko, and Kh. I. Malyshkin, Brestskaya Oblast market administration chief.

"As you can see, the residents of distant villages are willing to sell their surplus produce. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes, however, show no interest at all. Incidentally, extremely favorable terms are offered in Brest, Baranovichi and Pinsk for organization trade. We have signed 76 contracts with oblast farms to bring in agricultural produce. But at the present time few of them are even partially meeting their pledges. In the last 10 years, for example, the Pruzhany market has had practically no kolkhoz and sovkhoz produce to sell. This problem was discussed on two occasions this year at the rayon executive committee, but no changes are in evidence."

Failure to meet contractual agreements is occurring everywhere because the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in fact are required to pay no financial penalty for failure to meet contract terms. Why are they not bringing carrots, apples, pears, and tomatoes to market? In the first place, these tons of market-delivered produce do not count toward the state procurement plan target, which prompts the following logical question: is this not doing harm to our common cause? Secondly, a great many managers figure that marketing fruits and vegetables will not generate much profit for them. Attesting to the erroneousness of this view is the many years experience of the May Day Kolkhoz in Drogichinskiy Rayon, the Brestskiy and Molodaya Gvardiya sovkhozes in Brestskiy Rayon, plus others. As further evidence we should state that this year, for example, one out of every three kolkhozes in Latvia is marketing produce in the cities and towns of that republic.

When only private individuals are selling their produce in the market, when they have no competition from state trade, the customer is the loser, being forced to pay excessive prices for produce. Incidentally, those farms which fail to bring their produce to market also lose financially.

It is true that recently prices have begun to decline, because of organization of fruit and vegetable exhibit-sales at markets. There are still a number of organizational problems, however, with this advantageous activity. The Brest Electric Bulb Plant and Beltorgtekhnika, for example, are failing to meet the requirements of retail stores for containers needed to haul produce to market. It also happens that markets are not so anxious to offer specialized stores sales space, and they do not assist them by providing produce trays and awnings. These shortcomings have also occurred in Brest.

While there is a broad selection of fruits and vegetables at the markets, an adequate variety cannot always be found in grocery stores, even in Brest. We heard the following conversation in the Repka specialized store.

"Do you have pears?" a customer asked.

"No. And it is not likely that we will have any."

"How about apples?" And the customer named a certain variety, which evoked considerable surprise on the part of the sales clerk.

"We don't get that kind, lady...."

"Then give me a kilogram of turnips."

"We don't have any turnips either."

And although customers do not always persistently demand turnips, throughout the town we heard sad conversations about the lack of decent varieties of apples and pears.

Last week eight different fruits and vegetables were trucked to Store No 9. They included potatoes, onions, and tomatoes. They obtained table beets, summer squash, carrots, and grapes. But one was struck by the fact that the tomatoes and

apples were of an unattractive appearance or were no longer fresh. And yet large, juicy, attractive produce was being sold at high prices at the kolkhoz market. Under a market awning bearing the painted sign "Rayon Consumer Cooperative," on this day, just as on all other days, produce was being sold by... private individuals, who had come from afar, from the southern republics.

Apparently this picture will be repeated next summer, for some of the local kolkhoz orchards, especially in the suburban rayons, are in a state of neglect. Orchard productivity is declining. In Brestskiy Rayon oblast procurement organizations were planning to purchase 2000 tons of fruit this year, but a produce procurement and quality inspection to verify predicted crop prospects indicates that this target is unrealistic. According to calculations performed by experts, not more than 400 tons of fruit will be harvested here. And it is not so much the individual households which are to blame for this as it is the irresponsible attitude toward the orchards on the part of the farm managers and administrators.

They would do well to adopt the know-how of the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin in Stolinskiy Rayon, where a special fruit and vegetable production section has been established. A total of 52 persons have been assigned to work in this section, and they have only 109 hectares at their disposal. As regards financial contribution to the kolkhoz, however, this work force frequently does better than those subdivisions which operate several hundred hectares, with a work force of hundreds. In the last five-year plan the workers of this section have averaged 930 tons of produce per year. They have generated approximately 2000 rubles profit from each farmed hectare. Last year, for example, profits totaled 200,000 rubles.

A good job has also been done on the May Day Kolkhoz in Drogichinskiy Rayon, where they have also established at their own initiative a shop for processing fruits and vegetables. It is currently operating at full capacity. The same can be said about the Zarya Kolkhoz in Baranovichskiy Rayon.

On the other hand, on the Rodina Kolkhoz in Kamenetskiy Rayon, an orchard stretching along the Lesnaya River has gradually drifted into a state of total neglect. Kolkhoz cows are grazing in this orchard, and valuable trees are being cut down. Incidentally, such examples are far from isolated instances in this rayon. On the Kolkhoz imeni 22d CPSU Congress, near Malorita, they have gone even further -- they have taken a bulldozer and dozed a young orchard out by the roots. Is this not the reason why it is so difficult to find a decent apple in Brestskaya Oblast?

The inspection team contained the following: I. Kabrynets, director of the Pruzhany kolkhoz market; Yu. Pil'shchykau, chairman of the Brestskiy Rayon People's Control Committee; I. Brysh, state inspector, Brestskaya Oblast Inspectorate for Procurements and Quality of Agricultural Products.

3024
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COMPETITION RESULTS OF MILK PURCHASES FROM SUBSIDIARY FARMS

Moscow MOLOCHNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST' in Russian No 6, Jun 81 pp 35-37

[Article: "Results of an All-Union Competition for the Best Work of Organizing Milk Procurements From the Population's Farms"]

[Excerpt] The USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry and the Central Committee of the Union of Food Industry Workers noted in their decree that during the course of the All-Union competition for the best work on organizing milk procurements from the population's farms in which 14,000 collectives from the enterprises, shops, separator departments, and milk reception points of the dairy industry and more than 14,000 collectors took part a substantial increase in milk resources was achieved.

In 1980, with a plan of 2,509,000 tons, 3,190,000 tons were bought, which is six percent more than in 1979. In terms of a single cow on the private subsidiary farms of the population procurements came to 242 kilograms which is 17 kilograms more than in 1979.

The best indicators in fulfilling the plan for milk procurements from private subsidiary farms were achieved in the RSFSR (154 percent), the Belorussian SSR (133 percent), the Ukrainian SSR (125 percent), the Lithuanian SSR (104 percent), and at the enterprises of the "Soyuzkonservmoloko" All-Union Production Association (134 percent).

In all of the union republics there has been an increase in the number of private subsidiary farms which are participating in the sale of milk to the state. In the raw material zones of the Trikatskiy, Smiltenskiy, and Yaunpiyebalgskiy butter plants and the Valmiyerskiy dairy combine of the Latvian SSR, the Utenskiy dairy combine of the Lithuanian SSR, the Gomel' City dairy plant and Stutskiy butter and cheese plant of the Belorussian SSR, the Volkovyskiy children's canned products combine, and a number of enterprises from 95 to 100 percent of those who own cows took part in the sale of milk to the state.

Many diary industry enterprises of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian union republics purchased more than 3,000 kilograms of milk per cow, and individual collectors purchased 4,000-5,000 kilograms.

A large amount of organizational work is being performed by the Kaliningrad, Ryazan, Pskov, and Belgorod production associations of the dairy industry where 20-30 percent of the milk produced on the private subsidiary farms of the population was purchased.

However, individual dairy industry production associations in the RSFSR and Ukranian SSR did not give conditions to all of the collectives and collectors and did insufficient work to organize socialist competition for the fullest use of existing possibilities to increase resources of raw materials. In Dnepropetrovskaya, Zaporozhskaya, and Nikolayevskaya Oblasts of the Ukrainian SSR milk procurements per cow decreased.

In 1980 in Irkutskaya, Saratovskaya, Kuybyskeyskaya, Volgogradskaya, and certain other oblasts of the RSFSR milk procurements from the private subsidiary farms of the population decreased compared to 1979.

The Board of the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Union of Food Industry Workers have identified the victors in the All-Union competition for the best work to organize milk procurements from the population's farms and have presented them with awards.

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2959
CSO: 1827/3

DICTATION OF MARKET PRICES QUESTIONED

Moscow TRUD in Russian 29 Aug 81 p 2

[Article by Ye. Pestrukhina: "Who Dictates Prices to the Market?"]

[Text] The market prices for potatoes, onions, carrots, and apples, have reached considerable proportions and are continuing to increase. Let it be established by law that prices on the market can be one and one-half times, or two times higher than the state prices, but not more!

Arkhangel'sk

A. Tkachenko

--Any prohibitions and administrative measures will only worsen the situation. Prices on the markets are subordinate to the economic laws of supply and demand, --this is the comment on a letter from one of our readers by the deputy chief of the administration for the organization of trade of the USSR Ministry of Trade N. Kuz'menkov. I became convinced of the correctness of his words after having visited Azerbaijan.

The central kolkhoz market in Baku astonished me with its abundance. The endless rows of counters clearly could not accomodate all of the cherries, plums, peaches, tomatoes, eggplants, cabbages, melons, cucumbers, and lettuce. And the first thing that struck the eye was the price markers in front of each good. The modest figures gladdened the eye of the visitor. However, the buyers were clearly taking no notice of the price markers.

--How much? --They asked in a businesslike way.

From the answers of the salespeople it followed that the goods were being sold 30-50 percent more expensively than was announced on the price marker.

When a year ago the inhabitants of Azerbaijan saw price markers at markets for the

first time they were gladdened; finally, prices will become acceptable. But they very quickly became convinced that a price marker is one thing, and the price is something altogether different. One could, of course, complain to the market administration about the salesperson who was taking more. He could be removed from the market; but, in principle, this would not change anything. Another in his place would also ask "his own" price. If you do not like it--do not take it.

Does the Azerbaijan experiment mean that prices at markets are untamable?

--A reduction of market prices can be achieved only by means of economic levers, --N. Kuz'menkov believes. --Such levers as well organized cooperative trade, bringing in more surplus agricultural output from kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and the development of the system of trade services bureaus. In those places where this kind of work is performed the prices on markets are quite accessible. Take, for example, Omsk. Last year pork, poultry, cucumbers, cabbage, tomatoes, and garlic became cheaper on the markets of Omskaya Oblast.

The "secret" was revealed by the chief of the Omsk administration for kolkhoz markets I. Savchuk: --It is necessary to organize trade on the market, and not wait with folded arms thinking that maybe somebody will bring something.

Every year all of the oblast's markets receive a clear plan for the sale of agricultural products. And the market's administration sees to it that not a single kilogram of the surpluses from private subsidiary farms is lost: the villagers are helped to get their products to the market and hotel rooms are provided for everyone who has come with goods. On the basis of a permit issued by the administration, those who are most active in selling meat products are given the opportunity of purchasing scarce industrial goods.

The bureaus of trade services exercise a substantial influence on market prices in Omsk. If a kolkhoz worker himself does not wish to stand behind a counter--market workers themselves will sell his goods, but a bit more cheaply. Time is saved for the rural workers, overhead expenditures are lowered, and the buyer is satisfied with the price. Fifty percent of the meat products on the markets is sold through the trade services bureaus, and in them one can buy cucumbers, tomatoes, nuts, prunes, currants, and even grapes--the latter is always brought in season from Uzbekistan. Last year 3,607 tons of products were sold through the oblast's trade services bureaus.

The bureau of trade services is not a rarity. Around 800 of them are operating in the country. But are they having an important influence on reducing market prices? In Omsk, in the Ukraine, and in the large cities of Belorussia--yes. In most other places--no.

The thing is that the work connected with the creation and functioning of the bureaus has been left to chance. In 1970 the USSR Ministry of Trade approved a standard regulation on the bureau of trade services, and...that was the end of it. If a market director wishes to, he will organize a bureau; if not--no: nothing obliges him. In addition, in accordance with the regulation, the consigner can

only be paid after the sale. Not everyone will agree to wait. This kind of procedure by no means helps to stabilize prices in market commerce. Incidently, in Omsk, Zhitomir, and Belorussia, by decision of local directive agencies, a kolkhoz worker who resorts to the services of a bureau has been freed from this waiting and receives him money immediately. Why not make this practice which has given a good account of itself the rule?

Kolkhoz surpluses are an enormous reserve for expanding kolkhoz trade. In accordance with the "Standard Rules of Trade on Kolkhoz Markets" which were approved in 1978 by the USSR Ministry of Trade, the management of a market is obliged to enlist kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other enterprises and organizations to participate in market trade. Toward this end, the management has to conclude contracts with kolkhozes on deliveries of surpluses, assist in the organization on kolkhozes and sovkhozes of milk and vegetable reception points, and allocate space at the market for the sale of these goods, or sell them through the trade services bureaus, as is practiced, for example, in Zhitomir. However, the kolkhozes' share of the country's market trade comes to no more than two percent. Why?

Because the duty of the market management to "take measures to increase the organized delivery to the market of agricultural products" exists only on paper. Nobody asks if anything is being done to meet this end. The plan is asked about. And its basic indicator is gross monetary income, the lion's share of which is made up of fees for counter space and fees for services--the use of scales, aprons, gloves, and so forth. The existing system of planning has transformed the markets from enterprises of state trade into commerical equipment rental bureaus.

Feeling this, the Ministries of Trade of the RSFSR and the Ukraine are proposing agricultural output supply assignments to the oblast markets administrations. This practice is slowly beginning to spread in other republics also. Last year at Saratov's market this measure helped to sell 11 percent more meat, 36 percent more eggs, 15 percent more potatoes, and 13.5 percent more fruit. In all, as a result of the assignments, more than two million tons of products were delivered to Russia's markets. This figure could have been larger if the assignments had become a plan, and if their fulfillment had been strictly checked upon.

--It is impossible to foresee how much output will be grown and sold by the private farmers, --N. Kuz'menkov objects.

Is that true? As if there is no data by the Central Statistical Administration about how much and what is being grown in each region, how much the population is physically capable of eating, and how much will remain for sale. There exists long years of statistics on the volume of sales on each market. Finally, there is the experience of the individual administrations--Omsk, Zhitomir, Simferopol'--which shows that planning assignments are effective only when people are held responsible for them.

The direct commercial competitors of the market traders are the people from the cooperatives--after all, they are also engaged in delivering agricultural products which are produced in the private sector to the tables of city dwellers.

--Last year we sold an additional two billion rubles worth of agricultural output, --related N. Smirnov, the deputy chief of the Main Administration for the Organization of Procurements of Surpluses of Agricultural Products and of Cooperative Trade of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives. --Moreover, 700 million rubles worth directly at markets where we have 4,850 trade enterprises.

Excellent indicators! But this is for the country as a whole. But if we look at the matter concretely, then the inhabitants of Arkhangel'sk, Gor'kiy, Irkutsk, Ufa, Novosibirsk, and most other cities where the cooperatives trade basically in the gifts of nature--nuts, and mushrooms--and canned vegetables do not have it a bit easier from the fact that in the Ukraine and in Stavropol'skiy Kray there are cooperative stores on every corner and each one of them is a cornucopia.

But why take Siberia! In Lenkoran', this all-union vegetable garden where on every square meter of soil vegetables are ripening, in July the cooperatives at the market trade only in...grain crops which are obtained from state allocations. They trade, let us observe, without price markers and without identifying signs of their membership in the Republic Union of Consumers' Cooperatives.

--The republic's natural conditions are severe--mountains and salt-marshes. People do not give us the little bit that the earth provides to us, but prefer to sell it independently--complained the deputy chairman of the board of the Azerbaijan Union of Consumers' Societies (Azertifak) B. Akhmedov.

This "little," however, is quite enough for private tradesmen to load up the republic's markets and even take out some of their products to other cities of the country, including far-away Arkhangel'sk, about which our reader A. Tkachenko also reported. And every such trader is direct proof of the ineffectiveness of the work of a cooperative worker: he did not come in time, he showed no interest. It should be said that Azerbaijan's cooperative workers are on a good footing--they overfulfill their plans every year. But what is the good of this overfulfillment if the cooperative shops here look like poor relatives of the market counters?

--What is to be done--prices at our markets are dictated by speculators, --G. Melkumyan, the secretary of the Azerbaijan Republic Council of Trade Unions said dejectedly.

The implication--it is not our kind of work, it is for the militia. We will not deny that speculators are the scourge of the markets. Nevertheless, to put the blame for all of the troubles of the market on speculators is not right. It is not the speculator who establishes prices on the market. On the contrary: the unsatisfactory organization of the work of the markets, work left undone by cooperative workers, and the difficulties of state trade create the preconditions for increases in market prices and engender speculation.

Meanwhile, according to the statistics, nine percent of the agricultural products which are consumed are purchased on the market. And this means that market prices have an important effect upon the budget of a worker's family. And the position of an outside observer which is being occupied in this matter by certain organizations is impermissible.

2959
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KAZAKH HOUSING PROBLEMS SUBJECT OF 'PRESS CONFERENCE'

Alma Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian, 6 Aug 81 p 2

[Statements by Kazakh SSR government officials: "Attention: Housing Construction!, Implement the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress"]

[Text] The 26th CPSU Congress has outlined a comprehensive program for further improving the material welfare of the Soviet people. One of the most important components of this general program is to achieve all possible improvement of housing conditions. As was pointed out at the 15th Congress of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, housing construction within the republic is advancing along a broad front. This is now characteristic of all cities, villages and workers' settlements. New residents are settling into well-planned and -appointed housing with a sense of gratitude to the party and their government.

But housing remains an extraordinarily difficult problem for us. It was with this in mind that the republic's Union of Journalists arranged a press conference in the editorial office of KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA, to which were invited interested officials from various departments responsible for the status of housing.

Participating in the conference were N. Kadyrov, deputy head of the department of housing, municipal services and gasification of the Kazakh SSR Gosplan; O. Beysenov, first deputy minister of heavy-industry enterprise construction; T. Bukharbayev, deputy minister of agriculture; B. Dzhakubekov, deputy head of Glavatmaatastroy; T. Aubekerov, deputy minister of housing and municipal services; F. Takezhanov, head of the Alma Ata city department of architectural and building inspection; A. Bektemisov, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Gosstroy and others.

Questions put to conference participants fell topically into the following areas: what is the housing situation in the republic as a whole?, at what rate is housing being constructed? and what is being done to improve the quality of housing?

Press conference participants now respond to these questions.

KADYROV: Since the problem has always been a long-term problem, I would like to lead off today's discussion by citing some facts concerning the situation as it stood six years ago. At the beginning of the Tenth Five-Year Plan period the republic disposed of a total of 148.7 square meters of housing area. In 1976 there were 10.47 square

meters of housing available for each person. The years of the Tenth Five-Year Plan were years which saw further improvement in the people's living conditions. Suffice it to say that 30 million square meters of housing were made available through financing from all sources, which permitted 3 million people to move into new housing. It is typical that a large part of this housing was built in accordance with improved standard plans and is distinguished by a more efficient layout.

So as we can see, the successes have been considerable. It should be pointed out, however, that due to the limits on state capital investment the Tenth Five-Year Plan for housing construction was fulfilled to the extent of only 97 per cent. Of the funds allocated for this purpose, 150 million rubles remained unused. Less housing area than anticipated was made available--1,138,000 square meters.

Gosplan has undertaken a careful analysis of the reasons for nonfulfillment of the housing turnover plan. The main reason was late and incomplete provision of contract construction organizations with materials and equipment. During the past year alone, for example, they received 990,000 cubic meters of lumber less than planned, 260,000 cubic meters less sawed timber and 2,560,000 square meters less wood-fiber board. Because of inadequate supplies of materials and equipment, the republic ministry of heavy-industry enterprise construction alone was short its 1980 target for housing area to be made available by 180,000 square meters.

The highly unsatisfactory changeover of housing-construction combines to fabrication of new-series components during the Tenth Five-Year Plan should also be mentioned as a serious shortcoming. Of the republic Mintyazhstroy's [ministry of enterprise construction for heavy industry] 16 enterprises which were to be changed over to manufacture of these components, only half have been reorganized in this direction.

We came into the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period with a housing area totaling 175.2 million square meters, of which 111.9 million square meters were socialized and 63.3 million were in private hands. Per capita living space averages as much as 11.64 square meters. This is less than the unionwide average. It therefore becomes clear what serious tasks face lower-level economic organizations, the executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies and other agencies of the Kazakh SSR during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, upon the accomplishment of which depends implementation of the comprehensive housing construction program. Drawing upon all sources of financing, we have to make available a total of 30.4 million square meters of housing. Plans call for substantial efforts in connection with construction of housing for personnel of newly built enterprises and well as in rural areas to be developed. By 1985 no less than 12.2 square meters of living space is to be provided each person in Kazakhstan.

BEYSENOV: Our ministry is the main general contractor for housing construction in the republic. The responsibility of branch economic organizational personnel to the people is a great one. Their basic objective is to step up the pace of housing construction and improve its quality. I would like to begin today's discussion with some facts which we find gratifying. First of all with the fact that the ministry's contracting organizations have overfulfilled by 6 per cent the plan for new housing turnover for the first half-year of the new five-year plan. They constitute a combined area of 726,000 square meters. This comes as a result of more vigorous efforts on the part of management and trust personnel and of the campaign to fulfill increased socialist obligations for the current year. It is also the result of extensive introduction of innovative forms and methods of operation, of brigade and integral-process contracts among others. Suffice it to say that half of all the housing ministry organizations put up is built by self-financed, cost-accounting brigades, some 40 per cent of them

working on the basis of an integral-process contract, that is, in accordance with contracts with enterprises manufacturing reinforced concrete structures. This arrangement makes it possible to achieve maximum regularity along the entire operational chain of plant production, transportation and then immediate construction of large-panel housing. Since the advantages of operating this way are clear, we have decided to bring the total volume of housing and social, cultural and domestic-services facilities built on the basis of this system up to 75 per cent by the end of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. But by the end of 1983 we will change all 18 housing-construction combines, which have a capacity of a million and a half square meters of housing, over to operation on the basis of integral-process scheduling.

To the end of reaching this goal we are putting forth a great effort to study, generalize and then disseminate the practical experience branch enterprises have accumulated with the new methods. The Shakhtinsk combine, for example, which is represented in connection with the integral-process contract at the Kazakh SSR's VDNKh [Exhibition of National Economic Achievements], has become a central facility where we can study innovative new work methods. Delegations from all similar enterprises within the branch have already visited here. There is no question but that all this will have the most positive effect upon efforts to accelerate the pace and improve the quality of our residential housing.

One important developmental feature to be observed within the republic is the significant increase in the number of projects in newly opened up, undeveloped areas, areas in which labor resources are either inadequate or unavailable entirely. This is the main reason we don't have enough people today. In the second quarter of this year alone this shortage was calculated for the ministry as a whole at some ten thousand personnel. It was for this reason alone that we fell 13 million rubles short of fulfilling the general plan for construction and installation operations for the first half of the year. By the end of the year, when the main planned turnover over of completed facilities is scheduled to begin, the manpower situation will be even worse: by even the most conservative estimates we will already be short almost 28,000 personnel in the fourth quarter.

I mention these figures only to underline this fact: the lower-level organizations of our branch are not thoroughly exploiting the full potential of their manpower resources. Even with the resources available the semi-annual plan for increasing the productivity of the labor in all ministry organizations represented only some 2 per cent of a targeted 5.8 per cent. So our primary task as far as operations are concerned is to put forth every effort to raise the productivity of the labor of our construction personnel to the necessary level. Successful accomplishment of this task will require a sharp rise in the level of our structural engineering, especially where residential housing is concerned. Given the conditions prevailing in Kazakhstan, the most important problem to be resolved is that involving the use of design features and structural components of buildings and structures corresponding to the conditions created by the severe climate, earthquakes and ground subsidence.

It would therefore appear necessary for Kazakhstan to build a number of plants to fabricate for delivery in complete units buildings of lightweight construction with shaped galvanized steel flooring using the light materials going into the heating and assembly of the buildings themselves.

It will also be impossible to accelerate the pace and improve the quality of our housing construction without organization on the part of industry for the centralized construction of efficient mobile works, which will make it possible to raise the level of those

efforts at industrialization which, because of the specific conditions involved, cannot be transferred into permanent industrial facilities.

Efficiency in housing construction depends directly upon the level of mechanization of the labor involved. In order not to take up any more time I will say only that within recent years we have manufactured and put into production 480 plaster and 260 paint centers, more than 400 plaster and 300 standard sets, 210,000 square meters of stock forms of the metal variety, 350,000 square meters of scaffolding and other equipment permitting substantial reductions in the manual labor required on construction projects.

BUKHARBAYEV: The question we are discussing today, the question of accelerating the pace and improving the quality of our housing construction, is an urgent one for the people in our ministry as well. The numerous organizations within the branch are continuously meeting their targets for making housing and communal living facilities available; they turn over more than 500,000 square meters of new living space for use each year. This means that more than 10,000 rural families are receiving good-quality, well-designed apartments.

Together with the customer, the republic ministry of agriculture, we are now going the route of building settlements with the full range of necessary production, cultural and domestic-services facilities: housing with central heating, private plots and outbuildings, schools, kindergartens, clubs, trade centers, personal-services combines, work facilities and auxiliary buildings. Settlements built in accordance with this plan have received high praise from customers. And those like Zhdanovskiy in Severo-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast, Ilekskiy in Aktyubinskaya, Karagandinskiy in Karagandinskaya and imeni "Pravda" in Ural'skaya Oblast have been awarded special union and republic VDNKh certificates first and second degree for Tenth-Five-Year-Plan achievements.

The ever increasing volumes and rates of rural construction are making it extraordinarily important to insure continuous improvement of the scientific and technical aspects of the effort. The main thing here, of course, is to work for maximum industrialization of these operations and to transform construction into a mechanized process of assembling buildings and structures using prefabricated parts and components. What is in fact being done and what is the outlook for future development in our branch?

We are cutting the weight and materials consumption of structural elements through more extensive use of lightweight concretes, strengthening the elements themselves and the production and use of improved load-bearing and enclosing structures. We base our prefabricated housing construction upon the use of large blocks and unitized panels, units, that is, going for both housing and the construction of social, cultural and domestic-services facilities. This integrated approach permits better utilization of available plant capacities and reduction of transportation costs, which is very important considering the great distances from the industrial facilities to the construction projects.

Recent years have seen the ministry virtually rebuild a claydite-gravel production base with a capacity of some 900,000 cubic meters. This is a good foundation upon which to carry on our fabrication of large claydite-concrete blocks. These have already been employed in the construction of more than 400,000 square meters of housing. To improve the architectural aspect of our new housing we have developed and are extensively introducing into our construction operations industrial processes for finishing claydite-concrete components with colored cements, marble chip and spattering giving a "fur coat" look.

This five-year-plan period will see us substantially expand our effort in connection with the modernization of existing and the construction of new industry enterprises.

This will make it possible to increase capacities for production of precast reinforced concrete 454,000 and of claydite gravel 500,000 cubic meters and the manufacture of wood products by 710,000 square meters. Plans also call for a changeover to a fundamentally new system of organized fully prefabricated construction of housing and other structures--rural construction combines. This will ultimately permit us to combine plant production of industrial structures, complete unit assembly, the transportation of these units to construction sites and the construction and assembly operations themselves into a single industrial process. To the existing rural housing construction combines in Semipalatinsk, Petropavlovsk and Alekseyevka in Kokchetavskaya Oblast will soon be added similar enterprises in Atbasar, Yesil', Dzhambul and Taldy-Kurgan in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast.

DZHAKUBEKOV: Most of the housing turned over in the republic capital is built by organizations of our main administration. So we ourselves are well aware of the force of increased demands for quality in our work. The people of Alma-Ata are interested in the future development of the capital's housing construction combine and what the outlook is for its changeover to construction of the improved-series housing. Our city now consists primarily of three types of housing; these are the well-known buildings of series 464, 69 and 147. Each of these has its advantages and disadvantages. As a demonstration of concern for improvement of workers' living conditions, it has been decided to discontinue construction of the 69 and 464 series and replace them by housing in the new 158 series. These are 5- and 9-story large-panel buildings with an improved layout, which will become the primary component of our housing construction in the years immediately ahead.

Taking into account the technical impossibility of employing the production capacities of the housing-construction combine for building housing in only the 158 series, we will continue the manufacture of series 464 components and structures. But plans call for changes in the layout and design of housing in this series. It will no longer have any small rooms.

As everyone knows, Alma-Ata has a great shortage of development land. So we will now also be building large-panel housing in highly earthquake-prone areas, with further increases in the construction of 12- and 16-story buildings. This construction will involve the broadest possible use of pile foundations and the introduction of new earthquake-cushioning foundations. Already this year we are building a large housing development in the vicinity of the Komsomol lakes which will rest entirely upon piles sunk 16 meters into the ground. Plans also call for the construction of an experimental building on an earthquake-cushioning foundation. After completing the experiment we will come to a decision on the construction of this type of building.

All these innovations in large-panel housing construction do not, of course, exclude the building of brick, frame-panel or other types of housing. Some one-fourth of all buildings will be of mixed construction. We have also developed a proposal for further development of unitized construction permitting a variety of housing facades improving the overall architecture.

AUBEKEROV: As representative of the republic agency responsible for housing and municipal services, I have been interested most of all in the question of cooperative housing construction and in the problems which have accumulated in this connection. The most important of these problems is that of capital repairs.

The fact is that housing cooperatives are now already 15 to 20 years old. It's only natural that buildings come to need major as well as minor repairs after all this time.

This is the responsibility of the economic administrative organizations within our ministry. People have come to us with entirely objective complaints about how we are dealing with this kind of problem. So I would like at this point to clarify a few things. The fact is that it makes virtually no difference to us what kind of housing we're going to be repairing, whether it's state housing or cooperative housing. The only thing we're concerned about is what materials and equipment we're provided with and the authority on the basis of which we get them. The unfortunate thing, however, is that local soviets of people's deputies make absolutely no provision in their plans for resources to cover these kinds of repairs. I think more attention to housing cooperatives would permit us to remove this problem from our agenda.

TAKEZHANOV: The problems of capital construction, particularly those connected with the quality of our housing construction, have been, and remain, the most important ones we have to deal with today. If only briefly, I would mention the fact that we could point to a number of residential buildings right here in Alma-Ata which have been built in accordance with the world's highest standards of urban design and construction. It would therefore be better to dwell on the qualitative deficiencies which we, by the nature of our work, have always to point out and deal with.

Our most important shortcoming is the fact that we have not yet achieved consistently high quality in the construction of housing turned over on a turnkey basis. No little is being done in this connection in the way of architectural and structural inspection. We have now tightened to the maximum the requirements imposed upon builders turning over housing. Members of state acceptance commissions bear sharply increased responsibility. We are also taking a number of steps to insure high-quality housing construction. These measures are primarily organizational in nature.

For example, one of our inspectors will be assigned to each project to oversee the entire course of construction, from the laying of the foundation until the keys to the apartments are handed over to their occupants. Deficient workmanship is now punishable by substantial financial penalties imposed upon those passing on such work. Penalties totaling almost 3 million rubles were imposed last year in Alma-Ata alone. A system of bonuses has been introduced under which the awards builders receive depend entirely upon the quality of the housing they turn over. Those responsible for deficient work are made to bear virtually the entire cost of redoing the job. In the final analysis all this is having a positive impact upon efforts to improve the quality of housing construction.

BEKTEMISOV: Improving labor productivity in capital construction is the most important problem. Successful solution of this problem means coming up with masses of new labor resources and accelerating the pace of capital construction overall. Government agencies are now focusing their full attention on this problem. The republic has established a coordinating center headed by V. Grebenyuk, deputy chairman of the council of ministers of the Kazakh SSR. This center has taken over responsibility for all questions connected with increasing labor productivity in construction. Interest in changing builders over to the new system of reporting for completed construction also comes as no coincidence. It is to be completed within the republic by 1983. In this connection I would like to turn cutomers' attention to the future planning and design of their facilities. They should start this work now so that there will be no delays later.

Turning now to housing construction in particular. It has already been mentioned here that the past five-year plan saw 30 million square meters of housing made available from all sources of financing. If we speak now of large-block construction during the

Eleventh Five-Year Plan, it must be said that the republic is going to have a hard time reaching this figure again. I am speaking here of high-quality housing, housing modern in every respect. The unfortunate thing is that the republic Ministry of Heavy-Industry Enterprise Construction is still moving slowly in changing over to construction of the new and improved types of housing. Even the housing construction combines referred to today as examples--the Shakhtinskiy, Ust'-Kamenogorskiy, Balkhashskiy, Dzhambulskiy and a number of others--even these are still putting up 355 series housing, which is out of data and does not meet present-day requirements.

Gosstroy has been asked why, in view of the step forward represented by the bifilar method of residential heating, it has delayed its decision to employ it in construction operations. Yes, this decision has in fact been made. But not because we think this method of residential heating is bad in principle. It is simply that the industrial base of republic construction is not yet prepared to build three-layer heat-insulating panels. Efforts in this direction are under way, enterprises are being changed over; and the time is not far distant when the bifilar heating system, in which not radiators, but wall panels provide the heat, will become a commonplace in republic housing-construction operations.

Other questions concerning acceleration of the rate and improvement of the quality of housing construction were also raised at the press conference. The conference took place in a businesslike atmosphere; representatives of construction ministries and departments have incorporated all problems raised in their discussion with the journalists in their operational plans.

8963
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GREATER SPECIFICITY NEEDED IN INDICATORS OF SERVICE SPHERE WORK

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jul 81 p 3

[Article by M. Roze, candidate of economic sciences: "What Is the Main Indicator?"]

> [Text] The articles and letters of PRAVDA readers published under the heading "Reliable Service for the Population" raise important questions. One of these problems is improving the economic mechanism of everyday services. This is the subject of the article below.

The dynamic development of the service sphere, including domestic (everyday) services is one of the conditions for successful fulfillment of the program for a further rise in the well-being of the Soviet people. Many millions of people visit the shops and turn-in points each day. The scope of the work is illustrated by statistics: last year service enterprises made 117 million sewn garments and 29 million knitted items, repaired 125 million pairs of shoes and 110 million domestic appliances, and provided billions of rubles worth of other services. In the 11th Five-Year Plan the volume of these services is to grow 50 percent at the same time as a fundamental improvement in the quality of performance is achieved.

What has to be done to meet such a difficult challenge? How can we raise the economic efficiency and social significance of everyday services? First of all, as many specialists and scientists working on service problems correctly believe, we must intensify the impact of the economic mechanism and restructure the currently operating system of plan indicators, records, and evaluation of the work results of enterprises in the sector.

The main purpose of services is to lighten the burden of everyday and household chores, to give Soviet people the free time that is so essential to broaden their intellectual, vocational, and cultural perspectives, raise their children, and pursue interesting leisure activities. Without these things a person cannot work productively and creatively. This condition can be achieved only by providing various services to the public and performing a broad assortment of individual orders. This statement of the job is in full conformity with the

Fundamentals of Civil Law of the USSR and Union republics, according to which relations between service enterprises and customers are regulated by contracts for performance of everyday services. Therefore, services should be performed on individual orders.

But in practice these individual orders lost their priority a long time ago. Plans for volume of services and state reporting forms for enterprises of the sector still do not single out work done on individual orders in a special section and do not establish the prime cost, profit, and profitability of such services or the technical-economic indicators related to them. But at the same time, the volume of sales of everyday services to the population includes various work done for educational, medical, social, cultural-educational, sports, trade, municipal, and many other organizations which pay on a non-cash basis. The figure also includes so-called small batches of footwear, furniture, knitted goods, small personal items, and other articles made by service enterprises and sold to the population without advance orders based on approved models. This is despite the fact that specialists believe that in order to meet public needs at least two-thirds of the volume of services must be individual orders.

Under the existing system where the results of the work of enterprises in the sector are mixed together, their collectives have virtually no incentive to improve the quality and sophistication, increase the volume, and lower the prime cost of services provided directly to the population. Some examples will show the consequences of failure to clearly delimit the plan indicators of service shops, specialized factories, plants, and associations. For the country as a whole in 1980, the share of individual personal orders was just over 22 percent (less than five percent in Turkmenistan and Tajikistan) for washing laundry, 29 percent for furniture repair, and less than 65 percent for repair of domestic machines and appliances (56 percent in Kazakhstan and 46 percent in Estonia).

If we look deeper, it is not hard to ascertain that the methodology of such planning and accounting is itself unsound. As we know, the cost of work for sociocultural institutions is actually a part of expenditures already accounted for in state spending for education, public health, social security, culture, and other sectors. To avoid counting twice, this cost cannot and must not be included in the volume of everyday services to the population.

Small batches have long since become the primary form of output at many service enterprises, and this has unfortunate results. Many footwear, knitted goods, furniture, and other workshops have become bustling retail points. Inspections by auditing agencies show that they often sell mass-produced products, inflate their prices, and commit other offenses. Infatuation with the production and sale of goods under the guise of rendering everyday services diverts significant capital investment and the material-technical and labor resources of the everyday service system from solving the problems of providing services. Certainly the prime cost of items made in small batches by service enterprises is always much higher than the cost for goods from "large scale" industry.

The USSR Ministry of Finance, USSR Gosbank, the USSR State Committee for Prices, the AUCCTU, and other central bodies have raised the question of the need to improve the system of planning, accounting for, and evaluating the work of

everyday service enterprises many times in recent years. For example, six major articles on these issues were published in PRAVDA alone in 1979-1980. But the indicators of the plan and the state reporting forms for everyday personal services still have not been changed. What is more, the former instructions of the USSR Central Statistical Agency permitted the performance of work for organizations and enterprises and the manufacture and sale of small batches of goods only on the condition that this did not infringe on performance of individual orders. But the new version of the instructions, ratified in December 1980, removed this limitation.

We must make one basic clarification here. It is apparent that each year various enterprises, organizations, and institutions need more everyday services. It must be remembered that many of them serve the population. They are hotels, hospitals, transportation, institutions for children, and the like. It would be superfluous and simply incorrect to establish a special service system for them. They must also be served by the present service enterprises, but only on the condition that it does not infringe on the performance of individual personal orders. We must see that the sector continues to grow rapidly. And we should probably think about the proposal to specialize part of the workshops in jobs paid for on a non-cash basis.

At the same time it seems advisable in the immediate future, possibly beginning with 1982, to make the total volume of services in enterprise plans and state reports the result of adding three distinct indicators. The first would be the volume of individual personal orders. It should be the principal measure of the work of service enterprises and the sector as a whole. The level of this indicator should be the primary basis for the formation of material incentive funds, evaluation of the results of socialist competition, and determination of bonuses for service enterprise employees (of course, on the condition that they also fulfill the interrelated basic technical-indicators of their work).

In addition to this main indicator, it would be correct to account separately for the volume of work paid for by organizations and institutions on a non-cash basis. Finally, the third indicator which should be planned and accounted for independently is production of mass-produced and series-produced output, including small batches of articles manufactured on the basis of original models, primarily during periods of decline in the number of individual personal orders. In our opinion, these batches should not exceed one-fifth of the total assignment for rendering services. Universal and strict checks should be established to see that these mass-produced articles are entirely turned over to local trade enterprises for sale at state retail prices. It is obvious that the USSR State Committee for Standards must take operational steps to straighten out procedures for the development, ratification, and custody of models of mass-produced and series-produced products and accounting for them. It must also take other measures to introduce standardization and intensify checks on the quality of articles and services.

Here is one final proposal. In order to reduce material-intensiveness, broaden the assortment of services, and insure that the technical-economic indicators of development of the service system are compatible it would be wise to step up

work to decide the question of a uniform procedure for determining sales volumes and prime cost for all primary forms of service without accounting for materials and spare parts expended.

The proposals given here are presented as subjects for discussion. I would like to know the views of managers and specialists in the service sphere on the problems raised, as well as the opinions of employees of the appropriate central departments.

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PERSONAL INCOME AND SAVINGS

NEED SEEN FOR REGULATION, USE OF PERSONAL MONETARY SAVINGS

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 35, Aug 81 p 9

[Article by A. Shokhin, sector chief at the Scientific Research Institute of Labor: "Personal Monetary Savings"]

[Text] The decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress devote a great deal of attention to insuring more complete balance in national economic proportions. Problems arise with closely coordinating particular elements of the economy both in the sphere of production itself and in the area of income and consumption. One of these problems, directly relevant to implementation of the policy of steadily improving public well-being, is the problem of movement of personal monetary savings.

The Historical Record and Factors In It

Under socialism personal monetary savings are not, by their socioeconomic nature, money accumulated for the purpose of receiving income in the future; they are related to the consumption process and to reproduction of products necessary to satisfy personal needs. Personal savings are money that is formed gradually from part of current income and is objectively required to insure continuity of consumption and to satisfy growing needs taking into account the level of consumption and changes in its structure.

Personal savings usually have a definite, purposeful structure. The primary purposes can be grouped as follows: purchasing durable goods; expenditures for housing construction and repair; purchasing livestock and buildings; for recreation; support in old age and for children; and, a reserve fund (a personal insurance fund). The nature of the socialist way of life also gives rise to personal savings for the purpose of contributing to the Peace Fund and personal participation in the construction of sociocultural facilities.

The reproduction function of savings capital cannot, of course, be applied to all the money at the disposal of the population. Part of it goes for current expenditures in the time between family paydays, thus forming what is known as the circulating fund of monetary capital. Under certain conditions personal monetary reserves can include elements that are not related to the savings function.

These are excess monetary reserves that form when solvent demand and the supply of goods and services are out of balance. Excess monetary reserves resemble savings in form only; in actuality they are closer to money in the function of circulating capital.

In the period between 1966 and 1980 deposits in savings banks increased 8.4 times, reaching 156.5 billion rubles at the start of 1981. In the same period the wages fund in the national economy increased 2.6 times and retail trade grew 2.5 times. The share of growth in savings in monetary income roughly doubled during these years.

How can these trends be evaluated? In general, it is entirely natural that the growth in personal income in the contemporary phase is accompanied by a rapid increase in savings. The point here is that the structure of consumption and expenditures is changing with the rise in the standard of living of Soviet people: the share of expenditures that requires monetary savings in advance is increasing and the reasons to save are steadily broadening.

As an example, let us cite figures on personal expenditures for cultural-domestic goods, whose purchase ordinarily goes beyond everyday needs and requires savings in advance. In the period between 1965 and 1979 personal expenditures for purchases of goods rose as follows:

electrical appliances	3.2	times;
radio goods	2.9	"
china, enameled pottery, and glassware	4.4	"
furniture	2.7	"
carpet goods	8.5	"
bicycles and motorcycles	2.4	"
cars	32	"
jewelry	34	"
building materials	2	times.

In the period between 1965 and 1980 the number of families per 100 with radios rose from 59 to 85, for television sets from 24 to 85, for refrigerators from 11 to 84, and for washing machines from 21 to 71. In the last 15 years the sale of cars to the public rose from 64,000 a year to 1,117,000 a year. As a result of all this, personal savings are growing more rapidly than general family income and expenditures.

An analysis of changes in family budget expenditures shows the growing role of savings. As the table below indicates, savings have more than doubled in the families of industrial workers, and they have also increased in the families of kolkhoz members. This increase has occurred chiefly through a reduction in the proportion of expenditures for food.

At the same time, the structure of consumption of food products has improved greatly owing to an increase in the consumption of the most nutritional products and a decrease in the consumption of potatoes and grain products.

Structure of Family Budget Expenditures (in %)

Expenditure Categories	Industrial Worker Family		Kolkhoz Member Family	
	1965	1979	1965	1979
Food	37.9	31.8	45.2	35.7
Purchases of Nonfood Goods, Sociocultural and Domestic Services	45.1	46.3	36.5	40.1
Other Expenditures	14.2	15.3	10.3	15.4
Savings (Increase in Cash, Savings Deposits, and the Like)	2.8	6.6	8.0	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The stability of state retail prices for the main food and nonfood goods during the years also promoted growth in personal savings.

At the same time, the amount of personal savings has been affected by failure to fully satisfy the growing desire of Soviet people for a number of goods and services. In the last five-year plan, as noted at the 26th party congress, there were problems providing the population with certain food and industrial goods, housing, and domestic services. For example, the volume of provision of domestic services to the population in 1980 rose 43 percent over 1975 to a figure of 7.8 billion rubles, but the volume of such services as apartment construction and repair, mending clothing, and individual tailoring increased slowly. Tourism and automotive service are still underdeveloped.

Analysis shows that contemporary changes in savings result primarily from factors that cause accelerated growth in connection with progressive changes in the structure of consumption. This conclusion is also very significant because growth in savings, in particular savings deposits in banks, is often interpreted simply as the result of a scarcity of various goods and services.

Planned Regulation

In a planned economy, the ways that changes in personal savings are regulated are determined by the objective of raising public well-being. The most important task here is improving the functional structure of savings, which is closely tied to taking the measures planned for the 11th Five-Year Plan and later years to bolster the stimulating role of wages more and to improve and rationalize the structure of consumption even further. The problem is to establish conditions that will optimize the functional structure of savings, that is, insure that savings are used to facilitate the consumption process. This makes it possible to broaden current consumption without increasing current monetary income.

For this reason, in the 11th Five-Year Plan special attention is being given to achieving balance between supply and demand, which makes it possible to

consistently reduce that part of savings which is formed because of a shortage of goods and paid services that are in demand. The Basic Guidelines of the 11th Five-Year Plan envision more rapid growth in commodity resources than in personal monetary income. Thus, it is intended that the average monthly earnings of workers and employees will increase 13-16 percent, while wages paid to kolkhoz members in the public sector will rise 20-22 percent; by contrast, retail trade is to rise 22-25 percent and the volume of domestic services will go up 40-50 percent.

A better balance of supply and demand will be achieved by accelerated development of the sectors that produce consumer goods. The five-year plan in industry outlined higher growth rates for the production of consumption goods than for the production of means of production.

The decrees of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Steps To Increase the Production of Essential Goods in 1981-1985 and Satisfy Public Demand for These Goods More Fully" and "Increasing the Production of Consumer Goods, Raising Their Quality, and Improving Their Assortment in 1981-1985" present a comprehensive, program-based approach to the development of consumer goods production. They contemplate, in particular, faster growth in the production of new types of cultural-domestic and household goods.

Distribution policy is also oriented to achieving a better correspondence between solvent personal demand and available goods. The challenge here is to insure faster growth in labor productivity and production of output in the wages fund during the coming years. The decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress outlined a number of steps to strengthen the link between wages and final national economic results at all levels of management. Among these steps are the introduction of normative methods of forming the wages fund, increasing use of the brigade form of labor organization and payment, and expanding the sphere where labor norms are applied. It is equally important to establish greater possibilities of using monetary income and savings to satisfy intellectual and social needs.

The policy of shaping objectively necessary savings takes account of the natural growth of certain elements of savings. One of the areas of such regulation is creating conditions that favor the use of capital in ways that improve the structure of consumption. Implementation of the measures contemplated by the decrees of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Steps To Strengthen State Aid to Families with Children" and "Steps Toward Further Improvement of Personal Social Security," which were adopted this year in conformity with resolutions adopted at the 26th CPSU Congress, is directly relevant to solving these problems.

Improving the techniques of planned management of the movement of monetary savings also includes the organization of work by savings institutions. The system by which personal monetary savings are kept should, under contemporary conditions, take greater account of the problems of raising public well-being and balancing supply and demand.

Personal Deposits in Savings Banks
(at Year's End)

	1965	1980
Number of Accounts, millions	57.4	142.2
a. In Urban Areas	42.2	106.8
b. In Rural Areas	15.2	35.4
Total Deposits, in billions of rubles	18.7	156.5
a. In Urban Areas	14.0	114.3
b. In Rural Areas	4.7	42.2
Average Size of Accounts, rubles	326.0	1,101.0
a. In Urban Areas	332.0	1,071.0
b. In Rural Areas	309.	1,191.0

At the present time such forms of savings office work as payment of wages, non-cash payments in the consumption sphere and payments by check are steadily broadening. Alongside continued development of established forms of service, it is essential to introduce new ones, for example checking accounts for current family expenditures, a system of special-purpose personal time deposits, and state monetary credit for depositors who transfer wages to a savings bank. Many progressive forms of service to the public by savings banks have been shown to be very useful by the experience of our friends. For example, a system of check circulation is widely developed and successfully used in East Germany.

Personal monetary savings are directly linked to national economic reproduction processes and planned regulation of such savings is an important factor in raising the efficiency of public production and public well-being.

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